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On the Occasion of His Retirement*

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## History of Publications

Term	Vol.	Title	Published
Jan., 1929– Dec., 1947	1–16	化学研究所講演集 (The Reports of the Institute for Chemical Research)	Indeterminately
April, 1933	—	10 Jahre Institut für chemische Forschung (化学研究所創立十周年記念号)	—
March, 1949– Dec., 1949	17–19	化研講演集 (The Reports of the Institute for Chemical Research)	Indeterminately
March, 1950– Sept., 1952	20–30	化学研究所報告 (Bulletin of the Institute for Chemical Research)	Quarterly
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Jan., 1953 onwards	31 No. 1–	Bulletin of the Institute for Chemical Research (化学研究所報告)	Bi-monthly
Nov., 1966	44 No. 6	Special Issue on the Commemoration of the Fortieth Anniversary (化学研究所創立四十周年記念号)	—
Nov., 1976	54 No. 6	Special Issue on the Commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary (化学研究所創立五十周年記念号)	—



岡 信 三 郎 教 授  
Professor Dr. Shinzaburo Oka

## Emeritus Professor Shinzaburo Oka

On March 31, 1989, Professor Shinzaburo Oka, head of the Research Division for Organic Unit Reaction of the Institute for Chemical Research, Kyoto University, retired after forty-two years of service to the University, and the following day, he was honored with the title of Emeritus Professor of Kyoto University. Professor Oka began his service at Kyoto University in 1947 as a research associate at the Chest Disease Research Institute. Next year he joined to the Institute for Chemical Research and engaged in research to develop brand-new methods for organic synthesis.

Professor Oka was born in Kyoto on the 21st of March, 1926. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Kyoto University in September, 1947 and was awarded a doctorate in 1962 for his studies on the dehydrogenation from aliphatic glycols.

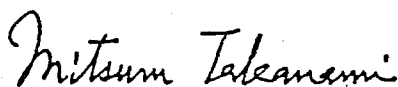
His research on organic synthesis includes alkylation of polyphenols, synthesis of crotonaldehyde by gas-phase condensation of acetaldehyde, preparation of lactones from aliphatic glycols, synthesis of acrolein from propylene or from formaldehyde and alkyl malonate, synthesis of methylene malonate from alkyl malonate and formaldehyde, and synthesis of cage-compounds.

He was also interested in organic synthesis mediated by organometallic compounds. The research in this field includes the carbon-carbon bond formation assisted by mercury or 8th group transition-metal elements, preparation of nitriles or halo compounds from halogenated compounds, dimerization of alkynes, preparation of ketones from acid chlorides, and preparation of nitriles from azides. His study in this field has been developed to the bio-inorganic chemistry of cytochrome P-450, which shed light on the mechanisms of certain biological reactions. His interest also concerned with organic synthesis by means of rare-earth metals such as of cerium.

Professor Oka's interest in organic synthesis did not stay in organic chemistry but further extended to the field of bio-organic chemistry including microbe-mediated synthesis of chiral building blocks.

Professor Oka's superiority as a teacher, insight into science, and warm hospitality not only have attracted and stimulated many young and talented students but also have won him the respect and admiration of many friends and colleagues. Among his numerous professional activities, he has served as a executive board of a couple of scientific societies.

On the occasion of his retirement, the friends, present and former associates and students of Professor Shinzaburo Oka take sincere pleasure in dedicating this collection of papers in honor of his long and devoted contributions to his Institute and to science.



Mitsuru Takanami  
Director  
Institute for Chemical Research  
Kyoto University

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